

# 2013 Needs Assessment for Chambers County

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## **Accomplishments**

1. Continuation of the Chambers County Juvenile and Dependency Drug Court for the 4 year including application for and receipt of funding for 4 years
2. Grant funding expanded the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program to include 2 additional staff people hired by the Circle of Care Center for Families to work with families of newborns up through age 5
3. DHR facilitated the adoption of 20 children by foster parents in Chambers County in 2012
4. Mental Health treatment services for children and families housed at local DHR to improve access.
5. Substance Abuse treatment services in county for youth and families housed at DHR as well as at the One-Stop youth center in Lanett.
6. Secured a psychological to conduct psychological evaluations on parents and children to help with determining appropriate services to meet their needs.
7. WIA grant funding secured to implement a youth employment services (YES!) for ages 16-21. Focus is on academic success, high school diploma / GED attainment, additional educational or job training opportunities, job attainment and retention.
8. Continuation of quarterly relationship classes for couples referred by Judge, because of first domestic violence offense, and determined to be at low risk of future violence and in need of communication skills.
9. Chambers County Schools Pre-K Task Force members joined CPC so efforts in area of early care and education can be better coordinated between schools and other agencies of the CPC.

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## First Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Continue and enhance work on resources and services for youth with addiction issues and their families through Juvenile Drug Court (JDC)

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Chambers County Juvenile Drug Court East Alabama Mental Health Center Circle of Care Center for Families Treatment team for Juvenile Drug Court Adult Drug Testing program Chambers County School System Lanett City School System Chambers County Juvenile Court Grant funding from AOC	1. Hire part-time JDC Coordinator. 2. Address the needs of youth who are committed to DYS and their parents so that they can successfully be reintegrated into the county after confinement and treatment. 3. After school programs for youth

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. ADECA Funding opportunity to address the reentry of youth who have been committed to DYS back into the home as well as back into the community and particularly the school system. Efforts are underway to address this need through the Circle of Care Center for Families.
2. Research and application for grant funding to continue the Juvenile Drug Court and to hire a court coordinator to facilitate the program including community service efforts, group activities, etc. .
3. Current staffing for the program is provided by individuals from various agencies in the county working together to coordinate the activities of the JDC at no additional cost to the court.
4. Continued work at the One Stop in Lanett where mental health counseling, other services, groups, contacts made with the youth by JPO and other activities are held to meet the needs of the youth on whom petitions have been filed
5. Parent Project Services to continue for parents of youth in the JDC

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## Second Priority

### Need related to children of this county

Secure a law enforcement officer solely dedicated to the investigation of child abuse/neglect/exploitation cases within the county. This would allow an individual to be thoroughly trained in the investigation and prosecution of these cases.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Currently, the 4 law enforcement agencies within the county, depending on where the incident occurs, work with DHR on cases.	Having someone dedicated to this function would provide someone to go out with DHR on all cases where serious physical and/or sexual abuse exists. This would allow the ability to get these kinds of cases handled expeditiously and the expertise that could be developed by a person in this position would assist with prosecution. At this time various officers are assigned to this task from the various law enforcement agencies. Because of turnover, there is a tendency in some areas of law enforcement officers not to report to DHR which results in a delay in assessing the safety of the children in question. All of the law enforcement agencies heads seem to be interested in this concept.

### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. If all agencies contributed to the cost, with one agency being the lead law enforcement agency to hire an individuals, the cost would be minimal
2. The individual hired would officially work with all of the law enforcement agencies to investigate the case.
3. Seeking out grant funding for this type of project would need to be a priority

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## Third Priority

### Need related to children of this county

#### Transportation

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
Circle of Care's Care Van (primarily for pediatric and pre-natal doctor appointments) Circle of Care recently purchased an additional van (primarily for youth involved in YES! program and adults participating in EPS program Grant purchased gas cards for Juvenile Drug Court participants Moving services closer to clients Utilize volunteers and interns	Medicaid funding for transportation Medicaid transportation providers in county Future funding for gas cards

#### Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Seek grant and local donation funding
2. Discuss the need with community leaders including churches